

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY: EA/ANP: HHLANGE

APPROVED BY: EA: RSINGERSOLL

EA/ANP: JCDORRANCE

S/S-O: KKURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 063022

EXDIS, CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 4207(DTG O/R/241259Z MAR 74) ACTION SECSTATE

INFO CANBERRA COLOMBO NEW DELHI USUN 24 MAR 74

QTE

S E C R E T MOSCOW 4207

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MARR, IN, UR, US, AS, CE, XD, UN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CALL FOR US/SOVIET MUTUAL RESTRAINT
IN INDIAN OCEAN

REF: STATE 58869

1. PHILIP KNIGHT, DCM AT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, CALLED ON DCM
MARCH 24 TO INFORM US OF DEMARCHE HE MADE MARCH 23 (AMBASSADOR
PLIMSOLL HAS NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS) TO AUSTRALIAN
DESK OFFICER PAVLOV ALONG LINES OF THAT MADE IN WASHINGTON
(REFTEL).

2. KNIGHT GAVE US TEXT OF HIS TALKING POINTS, WHICH WERE
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SHORTER THAN AMBASSADOR SHAW'S PRESENTATION, OMITTING INTER

ALIA ANY REFERENCE TO DIEGO GARCIA. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT:

AS YOU KNOW AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA HAVE BEEN CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILD-UP OF THEIR NAVAL PRESENCE BY THE TWO MAJOR POWERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THIS MATTER HAS RAISED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN AUSTRALIA FOR QUITE A WHILE AND AUSTRALIA HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IT WOULD NOT WELCOME ANY FURTHER INCREASE IN NAVAL FORCE BY EITHER SIDE.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE AUSTRALIA WANTS TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO PREVENT FURTHER ESCALATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE, INSOFAR AS CONCERNS THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET AND UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, A PROCESS TOWARDS MUTUAL RESTRAINT WHICH WE WOULD ALSO HOPE MIGHT LEAD TO SOME REDUCTION OF THE PRESENCE OF THE NAVAL FORCES IN THIS AREA.

IN ALL THIS WE HAVE NOT AND DO NOT SEEK TO DENY THAT THE GREAT POWERS HAVE THEIR OWN LEGITIMATE POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN JUST AS WE OURSELVES DO. BUT WE DO HOPE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE USSR TO DISCUSS BETWEEN THEMSELVES THE PROSPECTS FOR MUTUAL RESTRAINT.

WE ARE SPEAKING IN THIS SENSE THIS WEEKEND BOTH IN MOSCOW AND IN WASHINGTON. END TEXT.

3. PAVLOV REPLIED THAT USSR IS ALSO INTERESTED IN ZONE OF PEACE IN PRINCIPLE, BUT PEOPLE WITH BASES IN THE AREA SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. HE COMMENTED THAT "YOUR ALLIES" HAVE BASES, INCLUDING IN AUSTRALIA.

4. PAVLOV SAID IT WAS GOOD AUSTRALIANS RAISED THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME, JUST BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT DURING WHICH THE SUBJECT MIGHT COME UP. (KNIGHT TOLD US HIS OWN UNDERSTANDING FROM HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS THAT THE U.S. SIDE WOULD DEFINITELY RAISE THE SUBJECT.)

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5. WHEN KNIGHT ASKED WHERE THE SOVIETS NOW STAND ON THE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, PAVLOV PLAYED BACK CURRENT PUBLIC LINE BASED ON BREZHNEV-GHANDI COMMUNIQUE.

6. PAVLOV DID NOT MENTION INDIANS' ACTIVITIES ON THIS SUBJECT DESCRIBED PARA 9 REFTTEL.
STOESSEL UNQTE RUSH

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Message Attributes

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